



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

JULY MEETING.

A stated monthly meeting of the Society was held this day, Thursday, the 8th of July, at eleven o'clock, A.M.; the President in the chair.

The Recording Secretary read the record of the last meeting.

The Librarian announced the donations for the past month. These included several volumes of the manuscript records of the "New North Church," the "Central Universalist Church," (or, as it was subsequently called, the "First Restorationist Church,") and the "Bulfinch-street Church," in the city of Boston,—the last two named churches having been merged in the "New North." They were presented by the pastor of the "New North," the Rev. William R. Alger.

The Librarian also noticed the gift, from Mr. John Carter Brown, of Providence, R.I., of the catalogue of his private library; prepared by Mr. John Russell Bartlett.

A number of volumes from the Historical Society of France, and also from M. Desnoyers, its secretary,—previously announced as having been sent to the Society,—were placed upon the table at this meeting.

The Rev. Barnas Sears, D.D., of Staunton, Va., was elected a Corresponding Member.

The President called attention to a pamphlet of "Proceedings" placed upon the table, embracing the transactions of the Society at the April and May meetings. He stated that the Standing Committee had recommended that the volumes of "Proceedings" be now stereotyped, and issued in serial parts, from time to time; and that the members can have their choice in taking the volumes, either to receive them in parts as they may be issued, or to wait till an entire volume appears.

The President presented a copy of the "Second Annual

Report of the Trustees of the Peabody Museum of American Archæology and Ethnology," by the curator, Professor J. Wyman.

Mr. J. C. GRAY made some remarks relative to the discipline, and mode of instruction, in Michigan University.

The President read a letter from Mrs. H. W. Bowen, dated "Atchison, Kansas, June 4, 1869," and addressed to Dr. Peabody, of Harvard College, stating that the grandchildren of General Arthur St. Clair are in possession of his papers, and are desirous of disposing of them. They include letters from all the signers of the Declaration of Independence, all the generals of the army, and all the prominent men of that day. Before the death of Mrs. St. Clair, thirty years ago, she declined an offer of \$3,000 for them. The present owners have been offered for them a larger sum. The writer is desirous of knowing their value.

The President stated that there had been sent to him recently, from New London, Ct., by a relative of our late Corresponding Member, Miss Caulkins, a manuscript poem, of some length, written by that lady, and found among her papers since her decease. It is entitled, "Cobwebs in the Sky, or Nell McMudge: A Story of Country Witchcraft. By Frances Manwaring Caulkins." The poem consists of one hundred and twenty-one pages of letter-paper, and is divided into seven cantos, each canto preceded by an "argument." In the preface the author says: "The following tale combines in one narrative various New-England traditions connected with the witchcraft of former days. Almost every village, a hundred years ago, had its reputed witch. The incidents in this story are legendary, or copies of popular belief,—borrowed very little from invention or imagination. They have been gathered from floating sources,—the memories of the aged, or local tradition,—and woven together as a faithful embodiment of the superstition of former days. The ubiquitry power here ascribed to the sorceress; and the facility with which she could

change herself into other forms, or enter other creatures, soul and body together, or leave her body and make excursions without it,—are all in conformity with tradition,” &c.

The President read some passages from the poem; and Dr. HOLMES, who, at the request of the President, had read the poem throughout, expressed the opinion that it had considerable merit as a rhythmical production, and that it embodied many curious New-England traditions.

Mr. FROTHINGHAM, the Treasurer, stated that Mr. John A. Lowell, the Trustee of the Lowell Institute, had paid to him the sum of \$703.41,—the balance due for the expense of printing and binding seven hundred and fifty copies of the volume of Historical Lectures, after deducting the \$1,300 previously received from him for the delivery of these lectures.

Whereupon it was —

Voted, That the President be requested to make a suitable acknowledgment to Mr. Lowell for this generous aid to the Society; and that six copies of the volume of “Historical Lectures” be sent to him.

On motion of Mr. R. FROTHINGHAM, it was —

Voted, That the Librarian be requested to prepare an abstract of the volumes of records of the “New North Church,” which have been presented to the Society,—to be printed in the “Proceedings.”

The President read the following letters, from copies made for him by Mr. Sainsbury, from the Public Record Office in London: —

*J. Vernon * to Joseph Williamson.*

HAGUE 26 January 1671/2.

* * * * * * *

Mr Ellis & I were this day to see a House of the Prince's called Honslaer Dyke, about 7 miles from hence; the way thither lyes

* This Mr. Vernon was afterwards Secretary of State in William and Mary's, and Queen Anne's reign. —NOTE BY MR. SAINSBURY.

through a village called Loos-Duynen which is 3 miles from the Hague and is famous for that in that Church lyes buried the Countesse of Henneberge, with her 365 children, which were all baptized in two brasse bazins that they now show, and are placed over the inscription which is in Dutch and Latin; the same that your Worship hath read in severall books that mention it.* Not far from the Church they show a little round mount where the tradition is the Countess her house stood, & was swallowed up by the Earth that rises in that place; thence we went to the Prince's house which is reckoned the best in Holland. It was built by the Prince his Grandfather, but part of the outhouses & some ponds have been added since; the shape of the house is like Luxembourg at Paris, but it is nothing near so bigg and it is of bricke onely with some ornaments & trimming of stoneworke; the staire case is upon the model of Luxembourg, but here they have remedied the want of light & had it painted by severall able masters; the house is built in water that I beleieve the foundations of it must bee very expensive, but Wee had nobody to informe Our selves of but a Woman. All the first floore is Marble layd in severall squares; the Roomes are little enough for a Prince's house, the furniture ordinary but some good gold leather; the pictures many of them deserved admiration. &c.

J. VERNON.

J. Vernon to Jos. Williamson.

2 February 1671/2.

MOST HONOURED S^r

* * * * *

We came late to Harlem (in company with M^r Watson, M^r Parker & Major Scot) that we saw but little of it unlesse it were the Fish market, which is handsome & stands about the Church. The next day we made haste for Amsterdam where we arrived in the morning, it being but ten miles. Wee light at an English house where was Sir John Paul, M^r Banks, M^r Griffin of Hambrough and S^r George Downing's son with his companions, who have been now a weeke abroad. Wee went first to see a rarity of a man that broake glasses with his breath, which he did severall Rhenish wine glasses though held by an other with the strength of his mind he would make them ring, tremble & breake what was particular sounding to one glasse he

* See further, relating to this strange story, in "Coryat's Crudities," vol. iii. pp. 81-83, edition of 1776. — Ebs.

said he found it was unequally made and then crying to it onely one piece of it flew out, whereas those that were more equall flew into shivers. The man himself is a lean ordinary man; he was a rich marchant & cracked, but now he sells wine & breaks glasses, and that they say hath made him whole again. He is otherwise ingenious, and whereas in Taverns here there are bells hung to call the people, here the pulling of the roap makes a noise imitating the cry of some Fowle. Hence we went to see a table of marble inlayd with Mother of pearle representing severall flowers & insects in the naturall Col^{rs} which charged to admiration, being looked upon in severall places; the fellow of it was sent as a present to the King of Japan & cost 6000^l sterlin; the Workeman hath been 30 years about them without intermission. Next Wee saw the great terrestriall globe all of Copper of 6 foot Diameter which is not to bee sold under 1500 pounds sterlin. Wee past by Tryps house the great Marchant here which cost him 12000 pounds before he brought it above ground. The next day We were to see the Admiralty where one enters with an Order. We were carried through all the chambers of the Stores which have theer particular places assigned them, the sailes here, the ropes there, balls in another place, every thing in its order that it needs but open a doore in every chamber to throw every ships tackle into it, and in case of fire they can turne Cocks which will lett them in 1600 tun of water which is allways reserved on the top of the house for that use. The East India store house is near this, but Wee had not time to see both. Wee tooke a Boat & rowd round their men of warr which ly there to the number of 50, but most small ones; there was allso of their great ones the Lyon, the Elephant, the Looking glasse &c. The Swiftsure lay here single, her backe is not broken but is as fitt to saile as any of the rest; the Lanterne of the Royall Charles is kept in the Admiralty house. Thence we went to see Admirall de Ruyter who lives there upon the Quay in a pretty house; he received us courteously and made us tast a glasse of Navarre wine a present lately made him by the Count de Guiche, he spoke all English and not ill. He told us hee was one of the oldest living that had been in the West Indies, where he was when a Boy with the first that went thither, and he is now 63 years old, yet he lookes very fresh coloured & lusty under his years, he looks & is drest perfect Citizen like, in a plaine velvet coat. Wee stayd but little with him, for it was the morning; he had invited us for the afternoone, but we were to be gone. Going from thence Wee saw Collonell Spellman, he that conquered

the Kingdom of Macassar, he is about 50 years old, a tall lusty man with a good bold looke. I saw some hospitals which are in all to the number of 50, for men women & children, that the Charity of Amsterdam is reckoned by some to equall the charity of the greatest part of France; for besides these publique houses which are well endowed, it is ordinary for great marchants upon the safe arrivall of their vessells to give two or 300 pounds to the poors purse. I saw the Exchange, their Bedlam, Spinhouse, Rasphouse & Stadthouse, which is to noble to bee attempted to bee described. My time was but short for these Gentlemens occasions called them to the Hague, so we left Amsterdam that Monday & came to Harlem the same night; the next morning Wee had just time to see the Stadthouse where are all the Earls of Holland painted, & the Earle of Hollands house, an old building where is some rare pieces of painting; above all one foot of a man which the Prince of Toscany offred 1500 pistols to cutt out from the piece; in the garden is the picture of him that they pretend to have invented printing first, one Maurice Castoreus, a gentleman of Haarlem in the year 1440. I saluted Mons^r Casteline the Gazet-
teer here from yo^r Wor^{sp} who is full of all estime & respect for yo^r Wor^{sp}. Wee left Haarlem that morning, wee past by those fields that are so famous for whitening of linnen, whether send all theirs, that all the summer time there bee many thousand Acres all covered, & here is a great wood which is the nearest they have to Amsterdam for the Citizens to come & divert themselves. Wee passed over the 3 great sluces that divide the salt & sweet sea, & came to the Hague on tuesday night. I shall in obedience to yo^r Wor^{sp}s commands sett forward for London on Saturday next. I hope to see Leyden & Roterdam in the way.

I am, most Honoured S^r

Your Wor^{sp}s most obedient & faithfull servant

J. VERNON.